



LEADING CHANGE UGANDA

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



P.O BOX 11548

KAMPALA

Phone: +256 779196023

Email: leadingchangeuganda@gmail.com

Websites: <http://leadingchangeuganda.com> and <https://leadingchangeuganda.wixsite.com/home>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadingChangeUganda/>



A. INTRODUCTION

The Purpose of this Annual Report is to review the work of Leading Change Uganda (LCU) throughout 2019. Over that year, LCU experienced great success and a few challenges in pursuing its passion to change the world, beginning with three communities in the Wakiso district of Central Uganda. As a result, the women and children of Buwaali, Buso and Bbanga villages have been seeing their lives transformed through empowerment and training in how to use the little resources they have to change their lives and their communities at large.



Celebrating the end of 2019 with the leaders of the three Women's Groups under the Wangari Women's Project

B. ABOUT US

Leading Change Uganda

LCU is a non-for-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization, based in Wakiso district in Uganda. It was formed in January 2013 by a group of young people who hoped to create the change they wanted to see in the world, particularly for women and children. LCU is inspired by the idea that the world should be a better place for everyone, regardless of their sex, age, religion, color or nationality. The organization was registered as a limited company by guarantee without shares; it was incorporated on 7 December 2016 (certificate of registration number 80020000007536) and registered with the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations on 7 August 2019 (certificate of registration number 3090). The mandate of the organization is to create positive change in the lives of women and children. LCU strives to empower them to effectively engage in social and economic development through training, access to education, information and other basic needs to improve their standard and quality of living.

Mission

Our mission is to build and strengthen individuals, families, institutions and community initiatives for poverty eradication, education and development through partnerships at all levels.

Vision

“An informed, educated, empowered and just society”.



Main objectives

1. To contribute towards poverty alleviation in Uganda.
2. To promote access to education and improvement in basic needs while imparting life and entrepreneurial skills.
3. To promote sustainable development while strengthening and empowering our communities.

Other objectives

1. To provide education support to underprivileged children through scholarships, building and running schools and orphanages.
2. To enhance livelihoods among the urban poor and providing agri-business and advisory services
3. To operate a revolving micro-finance scheme for poverty eradication among the society
4. To undertake income-generating activities aimed at funding the activities of the organization and to equip communities with entrepreneurial skills.

Thematic areas of focus

- Economic empowerment for women and girls
- Education
- Climate justice
- Poverty
- Microfinance

Our team

LCU is made up of a dynamic team with a vast knowledge and a passion to change the world. The team is made up of individuals from different parts of the world who work hard to see that LCU achieves its objectives. They invest in the organization to see that others live a better life, creating the change would want to see in the world.

“Our team is passionate about putting a smile on another person’s face”.

C. OUR PROGRAMS

LCU continued its work on seven projects in 2019:

1. the Wangari Women’s project
2. the Climate Change project
3. the Smile of a Child Project
4. the Education for All Project
5. LCU on the Farm
6. the Wangari Women Revolving Micro-Finance Scheme
7. the Community Reading Club
8. the Volunteering project.

In short, a number of activities were carried out to improve the lives of the women and children in Buwaali, Buso and Bbanga villages including fundraising, training, celebrations and sharing the little we had. In the year 2019, LCU was able to reach 300 women and 100 children directly and indirectly.

D. WANGARI WOMEN PROJECT

Meetings

The Wangari Women’s Group meet regularly to discuss a number of issues on how to improve on their children’s class work and stay focused in school, and on how to empower one another financially by becoming peer mentors to each other. The women discuss how to support the LCU on the Farm Project which mainly focuses on agricultural projects, and the women were divided based on their villages of Banga, Buwaali and Buso. The Banga women focused on animal rearing while the Buso and Buwaali women were to do farming. During one of the meetings, the women conducted elections for the new leaders.

The women have also been able to buy 25 plastic chairs to be used during the meetings instead of sitting down on mats. They hire out the chairs to members as a way of gaining money to help them as they run the various groups part of the Wangari Women's Project.



Wangari Women's Project members in the meetings organized by LCU



The elected leaders of the Wangari Women's Project from the various communities LCU supports

Celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March 2019

International Women's Day was celebrated on 8 March 2019 by women all over the world and was recognized by LCU who acknowledged that it is a great day for all the women who work so hard to make the world a better place.

On this day, a peer-to-peer meeting was organized by the women of Buwaali, Banga and Buso villages to encourage and empower one another by sharing their stories on how they have been able to succeed in their businesses, loan handling and saving. The women gladly shared their stories on how the loans have uplifted their lives, improving their standard of living and enabling them to start their own businesses where they can now employ other women. They went on to tell each other how important it is to save for rainy days and also to start a business. *One of the ladies confirmed that she can now discuss money matters with her husband which was not the case before!* This confirms that the women of these villages can now make decisions in their homes and communities.

During the celebrations, 20 re-usable sanitary pads made by the Wangari Women through the tailoring program were sold at 500/= per pad to the members.



Women's day celebrations and sharing testimonies with the women of Buwaali, Buso, Banga villages

Easter Celebrations

Easter celebrations with the women and children who LCU support were made on Good Friday. Members of the Wangari Women's group and children involved in the Smile of a Child project took part in the celebrations. The celebrations included a lot of training and fun activities such as indoor games, football, dance and drama and sharing gifts. During the celebrations, they were able to learn together, sing together, dance together, have lunch together, play together and enjoy their time together. The women were taught how to manage their loans as well as how to continue saving so that the Wangari Women Revolving Micro Finance Scheme can continue to grow and be in position to serve them better. The children shared stories, art, dance and drama which were organized as part of the Community Reading Club with the help of some of the older students being sponsored by LCU. The day was crowned with Easter gifts to the women and the children which were donated by the friends and partners of LCU.



Meeting with the women of the Wangari Women's Project and the children of the Smile of a Child Project

Independence Day on 9 October 2019

We celebrated Uganda's Independence on 9 October 2019; Uganda achieved 57 years of being independent. On this day, LCU met with 100 children of the Smile of a child Project and 100 women of the Wangari Women Project. The women were empowered with financial management, climate change and personal development skills. Mrs. Ziribagwa Hellen Apedel Chief Executive Officer Pass it on Trust Uganda trained the women in Personal Development, Gavin Kimuli trained the women and children on how to handle Climate change issues and protection of their environment, Victoria Nattabi who studying a Certificate of Early Child Development sponsored by LCU helped the children with reading and games. Over time LCU has focused to making a difference in the lives of the children and women in Buwaali, Buso and Banga.



Celebrating Uganda's Independence Day with children from the Smile of a Child Project and women of the Wangari Women's Project

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas celebrations were held at Buso Muslim Primary School and attended by 200 people of which 80 were women and 120 were children. The celebrations were honored by the attendance of Mr. & Mrs. Apedel, the leaders of Pass It on Trust Uganda, an organization working towards changing the lives of women and children through education. During the celebrations, the women were urged to keep saving and children urged to stay in school. Gifts were given to the best individuals among the women and children who worked hard towards seeing that LCU achieved its objectives in 2019. The gifts were given to the best savers, consistent savers, and best students, among others.



End of year and Christmas celebrations with the children and women supported by LCU

E. CLIMATE CHANGE

The Youth Ecological Tour

The Youth Ecological Tour, organized by African Youth Development Link, to Kiteezi Landfill, Kampala Capital City Authority farm and Kyanja and Lubigi Sewage Plant focused on how we can overcome climate change. LCU was represented by Kimuli Gavin as seen in the picture below.



Gavin Kimuli representing LCU at the Youth Ecological Tour organized by AYDL

Environment Challenge One-Pick-One Trash a Day

Imagine: if each one of 1000 citizens removed one piece of trash in their space each day, a lot would change in only the space of a few days. The environment would be clean and there would be proper hygiene around our homes. And the impact on the environment could be a decrease in 6.0 ppm of carbon dioxide and a decrease in 15.0 kg of waste. This challenge was spear-headed by Kimuli Gavin with other youth from his community in Kawaala, one of the suburbs of Kampala, and it lasted for five days.



Gavin Kimuli (left) with other young people picking trash from the community

F. SMILE OF A CHILD PROJECT



Education for All Program

The program has sponsored 53 children in Nursery, Primary and Secondary School.

LCU supported 53 children with tuition fees for the whole of 2019. Among the children being supported by LCU, 28 students attend Hope Nursery and Primary School, 11 students attend Modern World Nursery and Primary School and 10 students attend Namulonge Senior Secondary School. The majority of children performed much better than last year. However, the performance of about 8 children was still very poor and parents were urged to support them and make sure they will join the Saturday classes offered under the Community Reading Club in 2020. We noticed that children who are part of the Saturday lessons tremendously improved in their studies. However, LCU is looking for a permanent solution to help these children who are slow learners rather than terminating their scholarships. We would like to get feedback from our dear sponsors on how to help these children who love school and are putting in a lot of effort to see that they improve in their studies, but who are still getting poor results.

In this year, LCU faced a number of challenges with some of the children who are being sponsored. Two students did not do their first term exams because they told us they thought going to school was waste of time. The students were counseled and went back to school and were able to do their final exams and passed well to the next class. During those counseling sessions, LCU learned that one of the students was mentally unwell. Thus, we discovered that some of the children we support need a lot of psychological and social support if they are to stay in school, as they are being affected by many things which start in their homes to friends with whom they associate.

LCU continuously monitors its sponsored children by visiting them at both school and home for support. The sponsored children were profiled with details of each child to get to know the child at a personal level. During the visits, LCU realized that each child has been affected by his or her environment

differently and have different dreams and different visions of life. The profiles will be updated regularly based on ongoing information received for each child.

We appreciate our sponsors and everyone who has been kind to support LCU's work in any way possible, enabling our children to acquire an education and be in a position to change their communities.

Modern World Nursery and Primary School

Modern World Nursery and Primary School is the only school in Banga village, about 10 km from the next school, which makes it far for the children to access quality education from another village. The school has about 200 children from Nursery to Year Seven and it has partnered with LCU under the Education for All Program, where LCU sponsors 11 children with free education. The school was started by Emelda Nantale, a member of the Wangari Women's Group in Banga village. Though she did not go to school, she loves seeing children get an education. Ms Nantale has provided buildings and space to the school authorities to educate the children in her village. The pictures shown below were taken during one of the Teacher-Parent meeting organized by the school requesting parents to work hand-in-hand with the school authorities to build a toilet for the school. The school, being the only school in the village, also lacks quality classrooms to accommodate the children, books and other schools.



Parent-Teacher meeting to find a way forward on how to build the school of high quality

Hope Nursery and Primary School

LCU was honored to be part of the school concert day at Hope Nursery and Primary School in Buwaali village on 23 November 2019 and represented by Ms. Florence Namubiru as one of the Chief Guests. LCU has worked with Hope Nursery and Primary school since 2017 to provide free education to the children of the Smile of the Child Project, Education for All Program. To date, LCU is sponsoring 30 children at Hope Nursery and Primary School in Buwaali village. It has been an awesome journey to see some of the sponsored children graduate from Nursery section to Primary section and from the Primary section to Secondary level. We appreciate every individual working hard to see that every child can access education and be able to fight poverty in this part of the world, thus working towards fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 4 (No Poverty and Quality Education).



Music, dance and drama at Hope Nursery and Primary School in Buwaali village on 23 November 2019

Menstruation Hygiene

During Term One on 16 August 2019, the girls of Primary Four to Primary Seven of Modern World Primary and Nursery School in Banga village were trained by the Wangari Women on how to keep clean during their menstruation period, thus on menstruation hygiene, and were provided with reusable sanitary pads of which some were donated by Linda Mitchell and some were made by the Wangari Women as part of their Tailoring Project. This project was to help the girls to stay in school during their periods and to protect them from men who would want to sexually abuse them with an excuse of providing them with sanitary pads, thus reducing early child marriages. We conducted discussions on how the girls could stay in school during their menstruation period and how to find solutions to some of the challenges faced by those girls during that period. The girls opened up about how they struggle to keep safe during their period. Some testified that during their period, they do not want to attend school. Others use banana fibers as a replacement for sanitary pads, while others have been lured into sexual activities during their search for money to buy sanitary pads which are expensive: a pack can cost up to 3000/-.



LCU's Field Coordinator training primary five, six and seven pupils on how to use reusable pads

World Children's Day on 20 November 2019

LCU celebrated World Children's Day on 20 November 2019. LCU took the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed towards a positive change in the lives of children all over the world. They are indeed doing a great job at making this world a better place for children and their mothers. On that day, the girls were taught how to use reusable sanitary pads while the boys were taught lessons on personal hygiene.



Training on menstruation



Enjoy food and drink

World Children's Day on 20 November 2019

G. LCU ON THE FARM

This project provided learning opportunities to the children and women of Buwaali, Banga and Buso villages on animal rearing and farming. The project has equipped women and children with animal rearing skills. It has also provided an opportunity for LCU to create a model animal farm where children, Wangari Women and other community members came to learn and share experiences. The animal project included a piggery project, cow project, sheep project and goat project. The piggery project was managed by Nakisozi Gorret, a member of the Wangari Women's Project from Buwaali with 5 pigs (two males and three females). The goat, cow and sheep projects were managed by Tomusange Daniel, a sponsored child under LCU's Education for All Program. The project includes one cow, four goats and one sheep.

By the end of 2019, LCU was clearing land for its farming project of bananas managed by Tomusange and Florence, the Field Coordinator.



Tomusange and his sister Annet who look after the animals under the Project



LCU on the Farm: Cow, goat, sheep and pig projects

H. WANGARI WOMEN REVOLVING MICROFINANCE SCHEME

This year, LCU organized the women of the Wangari Women Project and started a savings scheme under the Wangari Women Revolving Microfinance Scheme. The club started with 50 members who eagerly started saving from 16 August 2019. By the end of 2019, the scheme had 76 members who were diligently saving with the Scheme and 57 loans were given to out the members. Gavin Kimuli, the Scheme Coordinator, on several occasions through a number of meetings organized by LCU, taught the members how to make the Scheme better for everyone and how to solve the current challenges faced by the women as they focused on saving and getting loans to help them change their lives. At the end of 2019, during the Christmas party, gifts were given to the best savers and consistent savers as a form of motivation for the members to keep saving.



Women during the loan and saving scheme meeting with Gavin Kimuli and Nkalubo Micheal



Meeting of the members of the Wangari Women Revolving Microfinance scheme on 27 November 2019

I. COMMUNITY READING CLUB

The Community Reading Club helped 50 children to learn how to read, count and write in 2019 with the help of Nabukalu Joyce, a former sponsored child under LCU's Education for All Program, as their teacher. She volunteered her service to help both the children out of school and in school so that they were able to improve their performance at school. The children and their teacher meet every Saturday to read, play and write. However, the club lacks furniture, qualified teachers and teaching materials.



Saturday class with Nabukalu Joyce

J. FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

This program refers to the financial literacy training of the youth in Abim district, Northern Uganda, organized by African Youth Development Link (AYDL) and done by Nanteza Lillian, the CEO of LCU. The training focused on how youth could manage their finances with a focus on saving, managing loans and investment as a way of improving their standard of living. By the end of 2019, a majority of the youth who attended the training shared their success stories and thus gained from this training.



The LCU Team Leader training youth in Abim district

K. GIFTS AND DONATIONS



Some of the gifts sent by Carol Ann Hedley, Linda Mitchell and friends in Scotland for LCU projects

L. CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, LCU congratulates its Team Leader, Lillian Nanteza, who successfully obtained her MBA from the University of South Wales, United Kingdom. It is a great achievement, a milestone to the organization and an inspiration to see a young woman working so hard to achieve her goals.



Mrs. Lillian Nanteza Bwowe, CEO of LCU, on her big day after receiving her MBA from the University of South Wales

M. FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING

Giving Way Platform

LCU has registered with the GivingWay Platform to connect with volunteers, donors and other supporters across the globe. On this platform, LCU can receive donations, connect with online volunteers and recruit new volunteers.

If you are interested you can check out LCU on this link <https://www.givingway.com/organisation/leading-change-uganda> for volunteering opportunities and <https://www.givingway.com/donate/leading-change-uganda> for donations.

Online volunteers

LCU has worked with online volunteers who do a lot of work from their respective countries, such as reviewing documents, updating the website and social media platforms, creating videos to showcase our work, and connecting the organization to like-minded individuals and organizations. They have supported the organization in its administrative work by drafting documents and have enhanced the visibility of the work LCU is doing. Online meetings have been organized via WhatsApp, email and Facebook.

For any individuals interested in joining our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Fundraising drives

(i) Wangari Loan Program

Through this program, LCU has been able to raise funds through the small interest charged on the loans made to the participating Wangari Women. This interest has helped with the management of the scheme catering for costs such as bank charges, and supporting the Field Coordinator and the Loan Programs Coordinator.

(ii) Wangari Project

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through the tailoring projects undertaken by the women. The tailoring project by the women of Buwaali raised funds through the sale of dresses and reusable sanitary pads to the girls and women of nearby villages.

(iii) LCU on the Farm

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through the project LCU On the Farm, where LCU has been able to sell some of the animals to raise funds.

(iv) Linda Mitchell

Linda fundraised for the Smile of the Child Project's "Education for All" program and secured 54 sponsors for 54 children. She held a number of workshops for groups of ladies and church members about the work of LCU. LCU has received both in-kind contributions and funds as a result of her great fundraising drives. Linda taught ladies in different groups in Scotland how to make dresses and reusable sanitary pads which were later donated to the children of the Smile of a Child Project and to the Wangari Women's Group.

We are grateful to all our fundraising partners for their contributions in 2019, which has helped LCU carry out all the programs listed in this Report. We look forward to working together in 2020.

N. SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- ✓ LCU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadingChangeUganda/>
- ✓ LCU Twitter handle: https://twitter.com/LCU_Uganda
- ✓ LCU Instagram: @leading_change_uganda
- ✓ LCU Websites: www.leadingchangeuganda.com
<https://leadingchangeuganda.wixsite.com/home>
- ✓ GivingWay : <https://www.givingway.com/organisation/leading-change-uganda>
- ✓ Global Giving : <https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/37997/leading-change/uganda>

LCU is looking for a volunteer to manage its social media platforms. To create an impact in our local communities, we need to be able to showcase our work to the world.

O. CONCLUSION

Let's work together to be the change we want to see in world. Special thanks go to all the amazing individuals and organizations who have committed their time, ideas, money and in-kind donations to see that Leading Change Uganda achieves its objectives. The journey has not been a smooth one; the organization and the women faced a number of challenges but have also learned a number of lessons which will make 2020 a better year. It is our right and obligation to work hard and change the world in the best way we can.



Lillian Nanteza Bwowe (CEO and Founder)	Stephanie C. B. Brenker (Board Chairperson, Australia)
Gavin Kimuli (Accountant)	Linda Mitchell (Advisory Board Member, Scotland)
Florence Namubiru (Field Coordinator)	Alexander Bwowe (Advisory Board Member, Uganda)
Namboozee Faridah (Program Coordinator)	Nazziwa Winfred (Advisory Board Member, Uganda)
Michael Nkalubo (Children & Youth Coordinator)	Kigozi Nicholas (Advisory Board Member, Uganda)